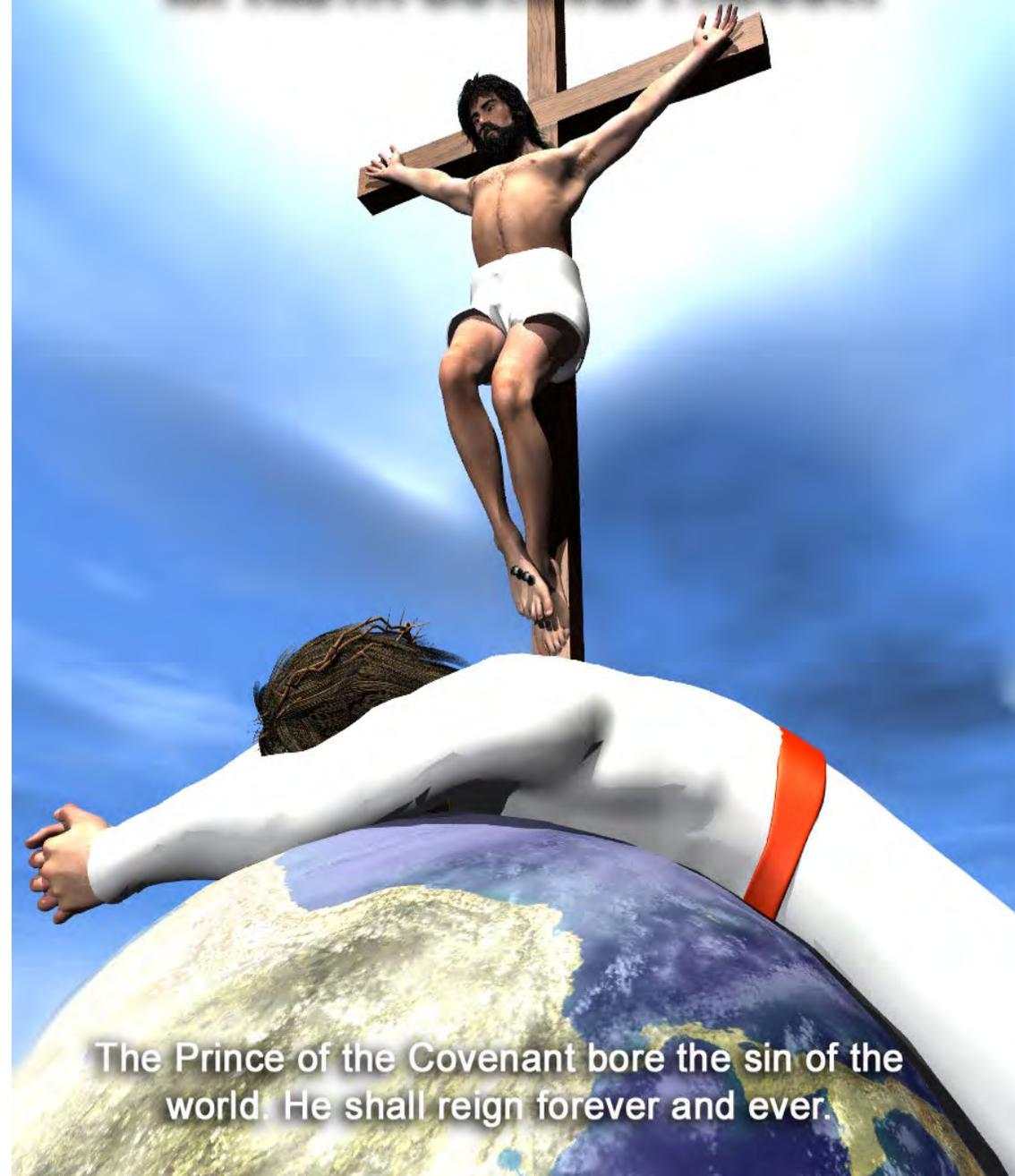




The Death of Jesus on the Cross was the death blow to the kingdom of Satan

DANIEL

15. TRUTH OUTLIVES TYRANNY



The Prince of the Covenant bore the sin of the world. He shall reign forever and ever.

HIGH POINTS OF UNIT 15

- The crucial event of history.
- Christ and Caesar.
- The shape of things to come.
- A road to resurrection.

In Chapter 11, do not look for symbols such as animals with wings, heads, and horns. This chapter is actually a further explanation of “**the vision**” of Chapter 8 – another journey over the same road.

In Chapter 8, the kingdoms are portrayed through symbols. In Chapter 11, the same kingdoms are simply named or described without the use of symbols.

Keep these facts in mind and Daniel 11 will be much easier to understand. Also keep in mind Gabriel's reason for bringing this additional message to Daniel, as stated in Chapter 10:14:-

“I HAVE COME TO MAKE YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOUR PEOPLE IN THE LATTER DAYS.”

Two facts provide us with a reliable basis for interpreting this prophecy. First, the journey starts in the days of Medo-Persia. Second, it reaches to the “latter days” and the resurrection at the end. The timespan of the prophecy is therefore unmistakable – Medo-Persia to the second coming of Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A. THE LAST KINGS OF PERSIA AND GREECE

This meeting between Daniel and Gabriel took place while the Persians were still reigning—200 years before Greece took world rule. Notice that Daniel 11 starts where Daniel 8 began—with Medo-Persia



Exhibit 3

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

The final verses of Daniel 11, together with verse 1 of Chapter 12, are yet to be fulfilled. This calls for caution in interpreting the details. Over the years many have speculated as to these last details of Daniel 11. Some have held that the final aggressor would be a Moslem power. In the late thirties some applied them to Nazi Germany; in the early forties, to Imperialist Japan; and later, to a future war launched by the Soviet block. Today there is a popular belief that the last power will be a mysterious superman.

Jesus' principle concerning unfulfilled prophecy was, not to speculate, but rather to "watch". He said: "and now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe". (John 14:29; 13:19; 16:4)

By building upon Bible predictions already fulfilled, especially the step-by-step sequence of Daniel's prophecies - Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome - we have a sure basis for identifying the chief competitor in the final contest for global rule.

Rome - the last power of Daniel's four - has never turned away from her belief that she is destined to govern all mankind on behalf of God. Today her approach is characterised by "mercy", "goodwill", and "morality". According to the book of Revelation, a consortium of powers will support her, led by the world's strongest nation and the ten horns (Europe). (see Revelation Chapters 13 and 17)

There will come a spirit of unprecedented political and religious cooperation, appearing at last to fulfil "the great global dream". The "golden image" of world government will be rebuilt as it were, leading to the final spiritual conflict and to ultimate disaster - the fall of last-day "Babylon" and the total shattering of the whole image. But Michael stands up and delivers His people (see Revelation 17,18, Daniel 12:1).

Jesus alerts us to "watch and be ready". He says, "pray always that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man. (Luke 21:36)

QUESTION 1 (Daniel 11:2, page 869)

How many kings did Gabriel say were yet to arise in Persia?

ANSWER: _____

The three kings were:

(1) Cambyses (530-522BC) (2) Smerdis (522BC) (3) Darius I (522-456BC)

These would be followed by a fourth king. His name was Xerxes (486-465BC). What would Xerxes do?

"He shall stir up all against the realm of _____." (verse 2)



Gabriel outlines what events lay ahead and what would happen to various kings

With the backing of immense riches, Xerxes "stirred up" as many as forty nations and led a huge army against the Grecian city states. But he was roundly defeated by the Greeks at the battles of Salamis and Plataea (480 and 479BC). Greece grew in strength until it finally conquered Persia (331BC).

QUESTION 2 (Daniel 11:3,4)

The next king in the prophecy would be "mighty". Can you identify him by comparing Daniel 11:3, 4 with Daniel 8:5-8, 21,22? He would:

"Rule with _____" (Daniel 11:3)

Who was this king?

ANSWER: _____

Alexander certainly did rule with great dominion, but his rule was brief. Just as Chapters 7, 8, and 11 all said, his kingdom was divided into four. The kings who first ruled over these four divisions were as we saw in Unit 10:

LYSIMACHUS: north
SELECUCUS: east

CASSANDER: west
PTOLEMY: south

QUESTION 3 (Daniel 11:5,6-13, page 869)

Which two of these four kingdoms would temporarily join forces?

"The king of the _____ shall be strong." (verse 5)
 "shall come to the king of the _____" (verse 6)

The titles – "King of the South" and "King of the North" – occur throughout Daniel 11. At first they applied to the Greek successors of Ptolemy in Egypt (south) and the Greek successors of Seleucus in Syria (north). Intrigue and quarrelling raged back and forth between north and south until the Greek world was swallowed up by the next great power – Rome.

B. ROME EMERGES**QUESTION 4** (Daniel 11:14,23)

Remember that in the Daniel 7 and 8 visions, Rome was to start off as a "little horn" ("from littleness", ie. a small power), but would grow to become "exceedingly great". It would become strong with a small number of people. (verse 23) How did Gabriel describe Rome's rise against Daniel's people?

"Certain violent men of your people shall exalt themselves in fulfilment of **the** _____ ." (the vision of Chapter 8) (verse 14)



The Romans rose to power after Greece

The literal meaning of "violent men of your people" is "sons of the breakers of your people". The KJV says "robbers of thy people". Three important clues help us to identify these "robbers" or "breakers" as the Romans.

- (a) they would come "in fulfilment of **the vision**" (the vision of Chapter 8)
- (b) they would "exalt themselves" – a reference to the self-exalting power of Rome (Daniel 8:11,25)
- (c) they would be "breakers of your people" – This "breaking" of others was a chief characteristic of Rome as already foretold in Daniel's previous prophecies. For example:

Exhibit 2 Continued

Give help ... now that I may be able to help you hereafter at the day of judgement ... if ... you delay your assistance, know that you are cut off from eternal life.

Quoted by Horace K Mann, *The Lives of the Popes in the Early Middle Ages*, (London: Keegan, Paul, Trench, Trubner, and Company Ltd, 1925), Volume 1, Part II, page 309

The power of the popes threw the church into great internal conflict. Rule by one man and the use of the sword to enforce the church's decrees caused deep rifts and bloodshed within the church. Salvation was denied to the "disobedient". Rival popes sometimes claimed the throne. At one time there were three popes, each claiming to be God's voice on earth. Each one condemned the other two, and placed them and their supporters under interdict (a boycott on salvation). Hence, virtually all Europe was "banned from heaven" at the one time. As well as this internal conflict, crusades were carried out against Christians of other faiths.

The Protestant reformation was, in many ways, a revolt by members of the Roman church itself against the Bishop of Rome being in total command of God's kingdom on earth - a man, sitting on the throne of the church and of the world, acting as if God. This kind of church government is totally against the teachings of Jesus (Luke 22:25,26; John 18:36; Matthew 22:21; Matthew 26:52).

Exhibit 2

THE TWO SWORDS

In many ways the popes became stronger than the emperors of Europe.

Pope Boniface VIII, in his decree, *Unam Sanctam*, explained the power of the Bishop of Rome in this way:

By the words of the gospel we are taught that the two swords, namely, the spiritual authority ... and the temporal are in the power of the church ... the former is to be used by the church, the latter for the church; the one by the hand of the priest, the other by the hand of kings and knights, but at the command and permission of the priest We therefore declare, say, and affirm that submission on the part of every man to the Bishop of Rome is altogether necessary for his salvation.

O J Thatcher and E H McNeal, *A Source Book of Medieval History*, (New York: Charles Scribners Sons, 1905), see pages 314-317

The pope occupied the first, the emperor the second, the king the third degree in the scale of earthly dignities.

Philip Schaff, *History of the Christian Church*, Volume IV, *Medieval Christianity*, (William B Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1957), page 252

The earthly head of the church [the pope] is the one and only head of all mankind He is their priest and their king; their spiritual and temporal monarch; their law-giver and judge, in all causes supreme.

Otto Gierke, *Political Theories of the Middle Age*, (Boston: Beacon Press, 1958), page 12

All rulers and people were expected to give obedience to this one person. His power rested on his claim that he was "their law-giver and judge". He could "shut heaven" against emperors, kings, or common people who failed to obey him. For example, when Pope Stephen II (AD752-757) needed military support against the Lombards, he wrote to the Carolingian King, Pepin, saying:

- Daniel 2:40 - "breaks in pieces"
- Daniel 7:7,23 - "breaking in pieces"
- Daniel 8:10,13,24 - "trampled upon them", "destroy the mighty, and also the holy people"

QUESTION 5 (Daniel 11:14, page 869)

What did Gabriel say would eventually happen to Rome, the "breakers" of God's people?

"but they shall ____" (verse 14)

Daniel 8:25 likewise says of the same power: *"He shall be broken without hand."*



Rome was completely broken apart by the barbarian tribes by AD 476

AT THIS POINT STUDY EXHIBIT 1: Pages 15 LINKS BETWEEN DANIEL 11 AND DANIEL 8

VERSES 15-16: These verses picture the overpowering advance of Rome against the warring kings of the south and north (the Ptolemys of Egypt and the Seleucids of Syria). Rome absorbed both, took 'the glorious land' (Palestine) and became the dominant power from then on.

VERSES 16-21: Focus upon the exploits of the noted Romans, Pompey, Julius Caesar, Antony and Cleopatra, ('the daughter of women' corrupted by Julius Caesar). Octavian (Augustus), and Tiberius also appear to feature in these verses. These emperors became highly exalted.

"Augustus" was a title of "the gods". This title was adopted by Octavian for himself. The title was carried by all succeeding emperors. When Augustus died he was deified (made a god). Before him, Julius Caesar had been proclaimed sole head of the Roman world and given the title "Pontifex Maximus" (Supreme Pontiff – priest). These ideas of "Augustus" (as it were god) and "Pontifex Maximus" (chief bidge builder, or supreme priest) became strongly entrenched in Roman tradi-

tion. Both these ideas were later adopted by the Roman bishops who took the place of the emperors.

C. CHRIST AND CAESAR

VERSE 20: Augustus Caesar was evidently the “imposer of taxes” mentioned here. He was ruling the Roman world when Jesus was born. (Read Luke 2:1, page 991. Compare with KJV.)

VERSE 21: The “vile person” who followed Augustus is seen as Tiberius, who reigned AD14-37. Many Romans escaped from his tyranny only by

Jesus was born into a cruel world. Herod the Great, "king of Judea" under Rome, tried to kill Him as a baby. Herod murdered all the male infants of Bethlehem in an attempt to destroy Jesus (Matthew 2:7-16). As well, he destroyed many political opponents. He even put three of his own sons and one of his ten wives to death. Augustus said of Herod, “I would rather be Herod's hog than his son.”

suicide. This is the same Tiberius who is mentioned in connection with Jesus' baptism. (Luke 3:1, 21, page 993)

QUESTION 6 (Daniel 11:22, page 870)

How did Gabriel describe the tragedy of Rome's devastation of the Jewish nation and the crucifixion of Christ?

"They shall be swept away ... and be _____ . Also, the _____ of the covenant." (verse 22)



Do you remember the confirming of the new covenant by the “Messiah the Prince” in Chapter 9? This prophecy of the breaking of the “prince of the covenant” (Christ), was fulfilled when He was crucified in the nineteenth year of the same emperor as mentioned above – Tiberius Caesar. (That year was AD31 – the “middle” of the 70th week of Daniel 9).

The Roman historian, Tacitus, who lived AD55-120, recorded the death of Christ with this brief sentence:

Exhibit 1

How is Daniel 11 Linked With Daniel 8
A second journey over the road from Persia to Rome

<p>Symbol One in Daniel 8 THE RAM (verse 3) Named as Persia (verse 20)</p>	<p>No Symbol in Daniel 11 Named as Persia (verse 2)</p>
<p>Symbol Two in Daniel 8 THE GOAT (verse 5) Named as Persia (verse 21)</p>	<p>No Symbol in Daniel 11 Named as Greece (verse 2,3)</p>
<p>Symbol Three in Daniel 8 NOTABLE HORN (verse 5) Named as the leading king of Greece (verse 21) (Alexander)</p>	<p>No Symbol in Daniel 11 Named as mighty king (verse 3) (Alexander)</p>
<p>Symbol Four in Daniel 8 HORN BROKEN (verse 8) (Alexander's Death)</p>	<p>No Symbol in Daniel 11 Kingdom broken (Verse 4) (Alexander's Death)</p>
<p>Symbol Five in Daniel 8 FOUR HORNS towards four winds (verse 8) named as four kingdoms (Verse 22)</p>	<p>No Symbol in Daniel 11 Kingdom divided toward four winds (verse 4) (Four Kingdoms)</p>
<p>Symbol Six in Daniel 8 A LITTLE HORN that became exceeding great (verse 9) (Rome)</p>	<p>No Symbol in Daniel 11 A small people became strong (verse 23) (Rome)</p>

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THINK THROUGH

1. Why is the breaking of the “Prince of the Covenant” called the central event of history?
2. Jesus said, “The gate of hades (hell)” would not “prevail” against His church (Matthew 16:18, pages 951-952). How does Daniel 11 demonstrate this?

REVIEW QUIZ (T/F)

- 1) Christ is referred to in Daniel 11 as the "Prince of the Covenant".
- 2) A main focus in the prophecy of Daniel 11 is the "war" against God's "Holy Covenant" (the Gospel).
- 3) God has not revealed the final outcome of the struggle between good and evil. No one knows whether right or wrong will triumph in this world.
- 4) Because I have given my life to Christ, He will see to it that I will never have to face serious hardship or opposition concerning my belief or way of life.
- 5) The message of Daniel 11 covers the same ground as the message of Daniel 8.
- 6) The message of Daniel 11 commences with Medo-Persia and ends with the resurrection day.

“Chrestus, the founder of that name, was put to death as a criminal by Pontius Pilate, procurator of Judea, in the reign of Tiberius.”

The breaking of the Prince of the Covenant is the great landmark prediction of Daniel 11 - history's major reference point from which we check our bearings for the rest of the chapter. This is the crucial event of world history on which the destiny of the human race depends.

In AD70, forty years after Christ's crucifixion, the Jews were "swept away" by Rome in the terrible destruction of Jerusalem, predicted in Daniel 9:26, page 868 - one of the worst tragedies of all time.



D. THE JOURNEY FORWARD FROM THE CROSS

From here on, we find details of the chapter harder to understand. This is not because there are no events in history that fit the predictions, but because there are so many that may seem to do so. In fact, people frequently hold that these final predictions apply to the tyrannical Seleucid King, Antiochus IV, or to a Roman emperor such as Nero, or to a series of emperors, thinking that the last kings of Daniel 11 are those of Greece or of Imperial Rome.

But the final events of Daniel 11 do not occur at the time of the Greek or pagan Roman empires. They extend much further into the future, as shown in the first few verses of Chapter 12.

QUESTION 7 (Daniel 11:45-12:1-3, page 871)

What are the final events of this prophecy? (answer in your own words, if you wish)

We see then, that the predictions of Daniel 11 extend to the great resurrection day. This means that the prophecy covers the whole Christian era, ending with the coming of Christ.

E. THE CHURCH IN CONFLICT

QUESTION 8 (Daniel 11:23-39, page 870)

Would Roman-Christian times bring peace and goodwill to all mankind? Read through these verses and write down some of the words or ideas which describe the condition of things.

The papal rulers made war on their own people and upon religious and political rivals. Popes were believed to hold the place of God upon the earth as His judge and avengers in both religious and political government. This led to the church using only force against those who dissented from its claims.

READ EXHIBIT 2: Pages 16, 17 *THE TWO SWORDS*

F. WAR AGAINST THE HOLY COVENANT

From the fourth century AD, beginning with the emperor Theodosius the Great, pagan religion was outlawed and forcibly repressed by Christian Roman emperors. Next, the three Arian Christian kingdoms were uprooted by Rome. Then came nearly two hundred years of crusades against Moslems (1096-1275). As the crusades tapered off, Pope Innocent III decreed that the Albigenses, a large Christian body in France, were “more wicked than Mohammedans” (Moslems). The Albigenses were virtually wiped out by persecution.



The Roman Church began to persecute all that stood in her way

J. THE JOURNEY'S END

Now that we have travelled the road from the cross to the coming of Christ, let us look back at the main signposts we have passed along the way. Again notice how Daniel 11 and Daniel 8 have taken the same path throughout the journey.

STUDY EXHIBIT 4: Pages 19

FAMILIAR LANDMARKS

on the journey from the cross to the resurrection morning – Daniel 8 and 11 compared

Do you sense that we are now living in a time of great significance and that our personal decisions for Christ and His word are urgent?



Christ is soon to return, the last verses of Daniel 11 will soon be fulfilled and then the end will come

QUESTION 15 (Daniel 11:45)

According to Gabriel's prediction, what will happen to the great superpower of the last days?

"he shall come to his _____, and no one will help him"

In Daniel 2, the stone destroyed the image "without hands". In Daniel 7, divine "judgment" destroyed the little horn kingdom. In Daniel 8, he would be "broken without hands". Now Daniel 11 says: "He shall come to his end and no one will help him." These prophecies show that God alone will bring an end to the long ages of conflict.

In Daniel 11:40-45, the focus is on events at the end – events not yet fulfilled. Are we able to predict precisely how they will be brought about?

READ EXHIBIT 3: Pages 18
THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME
for principles that help in dealing with
predictions yet to be fulfilled

QUESTION 16 (Daniel 12:1,2, page 871)

When the final crisis comes, who is it that steps in to save His people? What is his name?

"_____ the great _____" (verse 1)

What promised events take place at the end?

"And at that time your people shall be _____, every one who is found written in the _____. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall _____, some to everlasting _____." (verse 1,2)



The great superpower of the last days will be destroyed without hands and no one shall help him.

Verses 28-39 seem to highlight these political and religious wars, especially war against "the covenant" and "the people of the covenant".

The Waldenses (northern Italy), the Lollards (England), the Hussites (Bohemia), the Huguenots (France), the Lutherans (Germany), and the Protestants of Spain and the Netherlands were relentlessly persecuted through inquisitions and religious military crusades. "The people of the covenant" went through great suffering for their faith. They had forsaken Rome - sometimes by whole nations - to return to the Gospel covenant.



The Waldensians hiding in their mountainous valleys from the tyranny of the Roman church

QUESTION 9 (Daniel 11:28-31, page 870)

Against what sacred thing was "the king's" heart moved?

"against the _____" (verse 28)

"rage against the _____" (verse 30)

"he shall return and show regard for those who forsake the _____" (verse 30)

The "**holy covenant**" here would be the covenant mentioned in Daniel 9:27 and 11:22. It is the covenant of salvation through Christ. Christ is "the Prince of the Covenant". Saving power and judgement belong to Him alone. For another to claim authority to save and to judge, and especially to condemn and kill in the name of God, is certainly to war against the Holy Covenant.

G. HEROES AND HEROINES**QUESTION 10** (Daniel 11:32-33)

Throughout all these tremendous trials, what would the "people who understand" do? What would be their lot?

"instruct _____ " (verse 33)

"for many days they shall fall by _____ and _____ ; by captivity and plundering" (verse 33)

QUESTION 11 (Daniel 11:34,35, page 870)

How much help would the persecuted ones receive?

"They shall be aided with a _____ ."
(verse 34)

What effect would this have on the faithful ones?

"and some of those of understanding shall _____ , to _____ them, ... and make them _____ " (verse 35)



God helped his faithful church. Revelations says that the woman was given two wings like an eagle to fly in to the wilderness from the face of the dragon

QUESTION 12 (Daniel 11:35)

For how long would these trials last?

"until the _____ of the _____ "

The "time of the end" has become a familiar term to us. It encompasses the final period beyond the 1260 and 2300-day prophecies of Daniel 7 and 8 (1798 and 1844). The age of religious persecution had virtually ended by those dates just as verse 35 indicates. But more trouble was predicted to come.

QUESTION 13 (Daniel 11:36-39)

How would this last day power called "THE KING" regard himself?

"He shall _____ and _____ himself ... against the _____ of gods." (verse 36)

Remember that he was described the same way in Daniel 8:11,25.

"exalt himself as high as the Prince of the host"
"magnify himself in his heart"

Have you read the prophecies of Revelation about the world's final conflict and how certain powers will endeavour to bring the whole world under one rule and one worship? (see Revelation chapters 11-19, page 1181) Here is depicted a consortium of religious and political powers, with the Roman entity of Daniel still prominent. These powers will endeavour to bring all people into one system of worship, one universal order, thinking to achieve world government at last - an impossible dream!

Remember Nebuchadnezzar's golden image!
Remember Daniel's prediction! "They shall not adhere to one another!"

His "war" against God's sanctuary, which we studied in Daniel 8, is again mentioned in Daniel 11:31, which says:

"They shall defile the sanctuary fortress." Compare this with Daniel 8:11 which says: "The place of His (the Prince of the host's) sanctuary was cast down", "brought low". (NIV)



The king of Daniel 11:36-39 is the little horn of Daniel 8 that seeks to counterfeit the work of Christ in the Sanctuary

H. THE FINAL CONFLICT

QUESTION 14 (Daniel 11:40-44, page 871)

We should all long for and work with all our might toward the eradication of violence, hunger, homelessness, intolerance, and all evil. But do these prophecies indicate that *human effort* will ever succeed in bringing in the "one-world" "golden age" of peace?